

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 9, 2003 ("Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-27 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1, 8, 12, 19, 23, and 25; and objects to Claims 2-7, 9-11, 13-18, 20-22, 24, 26, and 27. Applicants amend Claims 1, 3, 6, 12, 17, and 23. Applicants do not admit that these amendments were necessary as a result of any cited art. Applicants cancel Claims 2, 19, 20, and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants add New Claims 28-30. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments or by the New Claims.

Claim Rejections and Objections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 8, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,736,169 issued to Weaver et al. ("*Weaver*"). The Examiner rejects Claims 12 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Weaver*. The Examiner objects to Claims 2-11, 13-18, 20-22, 24, and 26-27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2-11, 13-18, 20-22, 24, and 26-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants amend Claims 1, 12, and 23 to include limitations from claims merely objected to by the Examiner. In addition, Applicants have added New Claims 28-30 that comprise objected to Claims rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-30.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Samir A. Bhavsar, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6581.

Applicants include herewith a check in the amount of \$172.00 to cover the cost of additional claims. Although no other fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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